PVCD

PEMBINA VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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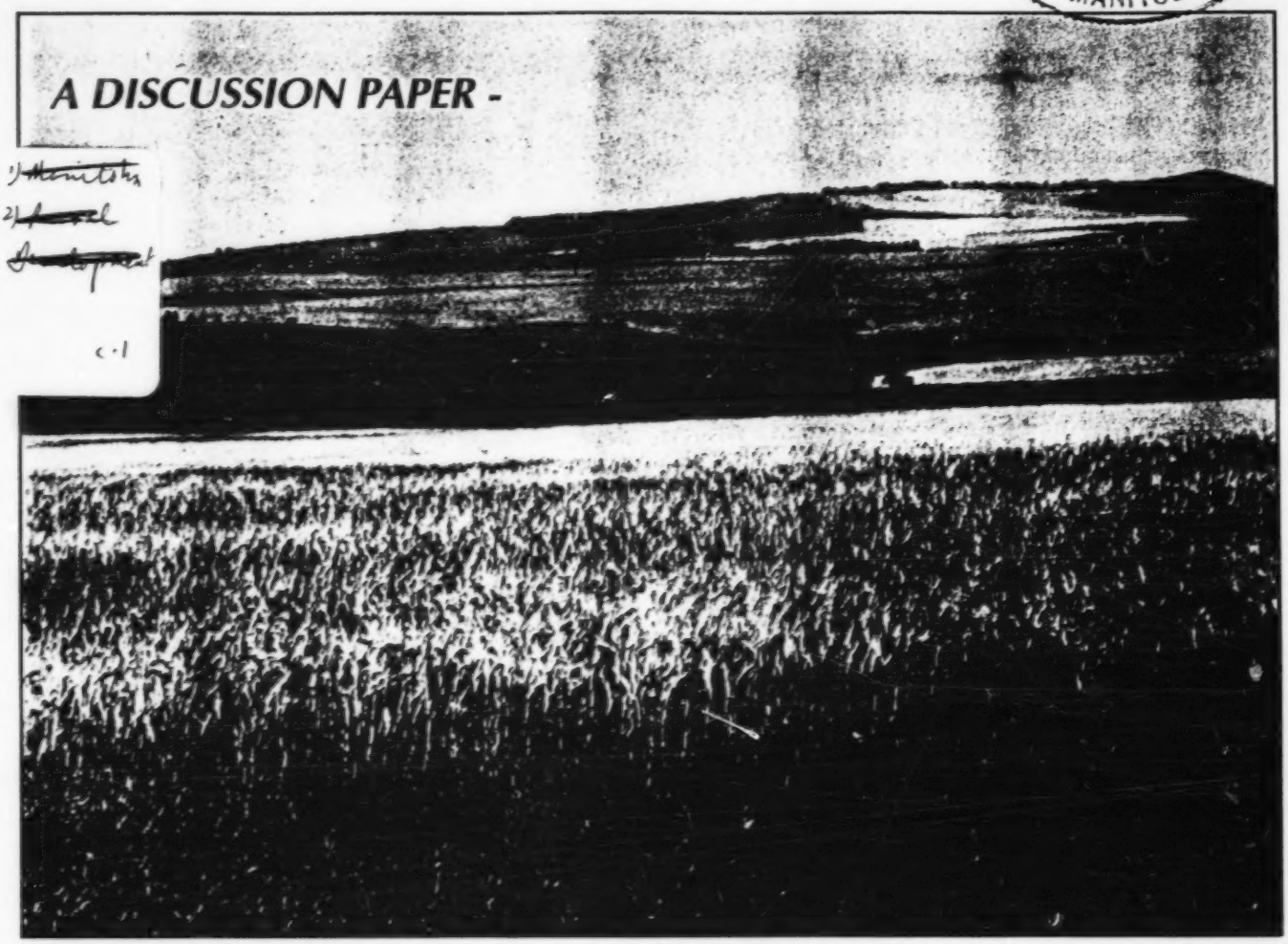
Rural Municipalities of Lorne, Louise, Pembina, Thompson



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How do you want the Conservation District to manage our resources?

The Pembina Valley Conservation District was incorporated October 2, 1989; board appointments were made in December 1989, and staff was hired in April 1990. Many introductions have been made to local people and area resource managers; we are now ready to start laying out an agenda for action.

The board is committed to managing the resources of the 1340 square mile district, according to the priorities of our ten thousand local residents. This discussion paper is the first step in organizing the long term district program, according to your recommendations.

THE PROCESS -

DECEMBER 1990 DISCUSSION PAPER → MARCH 1991 DRAFT STRATEGY → JULY 1991 APPROVED STRATEGY

- Soil Management
- Water Management
- Education
- What Else?

Technical Meetings

Public Meetings

→ MANAGING RESOURCES ACCORDING TO YOUR PRIORITIES

91-05672/

Fellow Residents:

Most of us have heard something by now about our new Conservation District, though we're not yet sure exactly what it will be doing. The district board's most important task over the next year will be to prepare a conservation strategy, outlining our long range priorities and proposed 5-year program and budget. Your input is crucial to this process.

This paper is the first step in consulting with you, to identify clearly the resource issues that are important to the community, and how the board can best deal with them. Step two will be a draft document, incorporating your ideas on local resource management; after the public reviews the draft, we will assemble a conservation strategy made by and for the people of the PVCD.

There is no teacher like experience, and we recognize that you people have the direct experience and knowledge we need to assemble a practical and common sense strategy for managing our resources far into the future.

We hope you will consider all the issues and management questions outlined in this paper, and join us in open houses to discuss your reactions. Your input to this discussion paper will help us to prepare a draft conservation strategy for your review in the spring.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Don Alexander, Board Chairman

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

1. Talk to your local subdistrict member.
2. Attend community open houses.
3. Make a presentation to the PVCD board.
4. Attend a subdistrict or board meeting.
5. Talk to your municipal council.
6. Call the office, write, or drop in.

Soil Management

ISSUE 1: *We are losing topsoil, through wind and water erosion.*

ISSUE 2: *Soil productivity is often limited by problems with excessive salinity, or deficient organic matter.*

Should the district:

a) work actively to reduce water and wind erosion, by:
- promoting crop residue management?
- encouraging farmers to plant steep slopes to cover crops?
- encouraging landowners to stop farming severely erodible lands?
- planting more field shelterbelts?

b) encourage practices that build and improve topsoil, such as:
- incorporating more crop residue?
- growing and incorporating green manure crops?
- reducing tillage?

(Should the encouragement be monetary or educational?)

c) limit our role to acting as the local contact for Manitoba Agriculture and PFRA staff to help them deliver such programs?

* Should the board sponsor educational workshops to inform landowners of new or different conservation farming practices?

* Should the board purchase or lease conservation farming machinery and rent it out to farmers who are willing to experiment?

* Should the district support the programs of the local soils associations, to keep them going after their present funding expires?

* What else should we do to protect and improve our soils?

How do we want to manage our resources?
With what resource issues do we want to get involved?

Water Management - Surface Water and Groundwater

ISSUE 1: *Surface water quality is deteriorating.*
What should the district do? Should we:
a) encourage planting of buffer strips along water bodies?
b) promote soil testing, and more careful use of fertilizers?
c) target conservation farming programs in critical watersheds?
d) pay for marsh protection programs, to help filter waters and feed the streams that flow into our lakes?

ISSUE 2: *Surface water levels are dropping. Streams and rivers run dry after the spring, and municipal water supplies often run short.*
Should we:
a) build as many small water retention projects as possible?
b) encourage preservation of existing wetlands?
c) build dams for local irrigation and drinking water?
d) build "dry dams" to control flood peaks?

ISSUE 3: *Groundwater levels are dropping.*
Should the district:
a) encourage the province to adopt stricter water use regulations?
b) encourage RMs and towns to charge for every litre used?
c) retain surface water on groundwater recharge areas?
d) encourage organic matter enhancement on farm lands?

ISSUE 4: *Ground water quality is degrading.*

a) Should we encourage better land use on recharge areas?
b) Should the province be requested to monitor groundwater quality in a number of representative wells?
c) Should we support research into farm chemical residues?
d) Should we encourage the province to adopt a groundwater protection strategy?
e) Should we assist with farm pipeline systems and/or regional wells?

What else should the board do to manage our water supplies?

What else should the board do to manage our water supplies?

Do you favour the PVCD assuming responsibility for man made drains and crossings in the district?

Wildlife and Fisheries

ISSUE: *Loss of habitat.*
There are already many fish and wildlife programs around - what role should the board play in the protection of habitat?
a) Should we develop habitat programs and projects, in consultation with other organizations and landowners, and encourage the "no net loss of wetlands" ideal?
b) Should district funds be used to purchase or lease habitat lands?
c) Should our role be limited to encouraging other agencies to improve their programs, and coordinating their efforts?
d) Should the board take no action on the issue of habitat loss?

What other suggestions do you have?

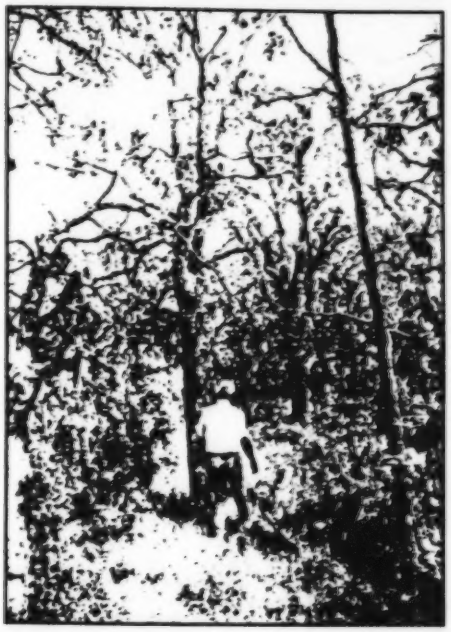
What issues should the district leave to someone else?
Why bother with a "Conservation Strategy?"

Conservation Education

ISSUE: *Educating all ages is the key to reaching people.*
How should we go about it? Who should we approach? Should we:
a) conduct and sponsor seminars on new practices and programs?
b) encourage farmers to attempt or demonstrate new techniques?
c) conduct poster and essay contests in the schools?
d) accept tax deductible donations to a "Conservation Fund", and award scholarships in resource management?
e) educate and train teachers in conservation programs?
f) encourage practices that conserve water in the home?
g) encourage and support recycling programs in the district?

How else could we reach people, here or in the cities?

Tourism and Recreation

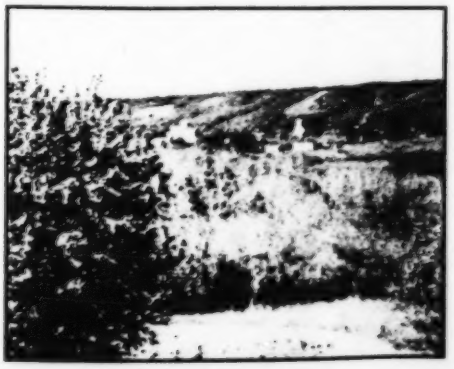


ISSUE 1: *Farmers are not making a reasonable profit from selling their products. Selling recreational opportunities is another way to profit from using our land, water and forests.*

a) Should the board get involved in promoting hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities in the district, should we construct facilities, should we assist other developers?
b) Should we cooperate with local wildlife associations in conducting locally - based wildlife habitat programs?
c) Should we concentrate on maintaining a healthy natural landscape, where tourists and developers can find a variety of recreational opportunities?

Should we get involved in any other way?

Community and Economic Development



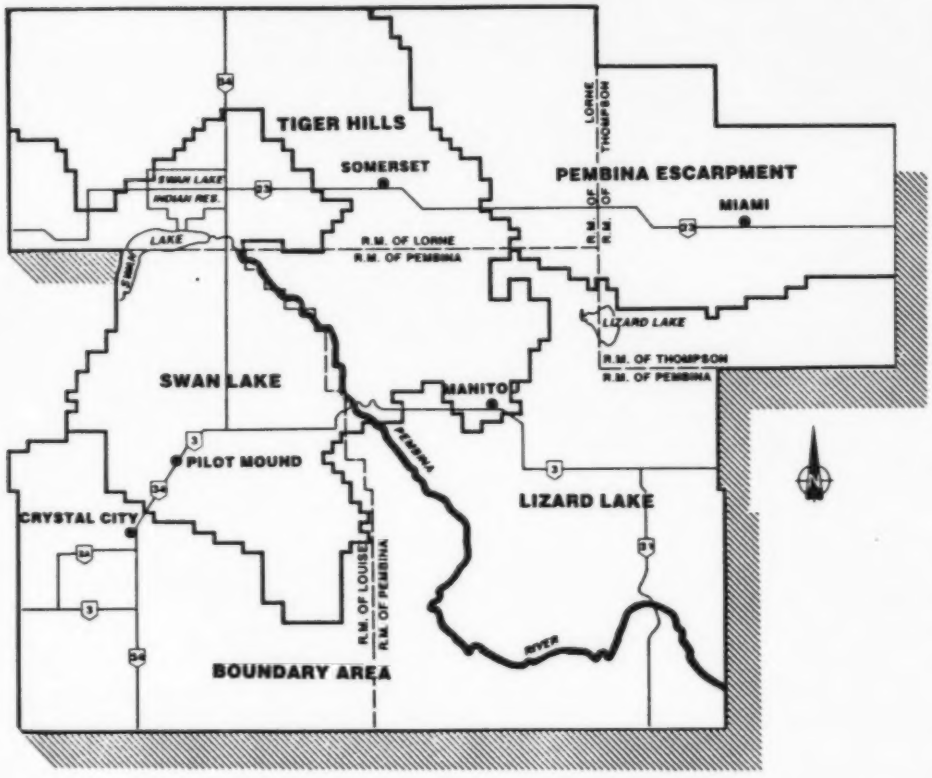
ISSUE: *Community Leaders are endeavoring to guide development.*

Should the board:
a) ensure that resources are respected in town development?
b) act as a local office for Regional Development programs?
c) survey land use changes using aerial and satellite images?
d) encourage development that is compatible with the environment?

What ideas do you have for linking conservation and economic development?

The Pembina Valley Conservation District is Manitoba's sixth district, established to manage local resources according to local priorities. The major physical feature is the Pembina Valley, a glacial valley that bisects the district from northwest to southeast. Swan Lake is the largest water body, situated within the valley on the western edge of the district. Lizard Lake is also in the district.

The district was formed in response to local concern about wind and water erosion, and water shortages. The presence of the PVCD encourages local landowners to participate in conservation programs, benefiting our many related natural and human resources.



Our activities will follow the "Sustainable Development" principles adopted by people worldwide; economic and environmental factors will be given equal weight, and resources will be managed to benefit both present and future generations.

The way the PVCD is organized encourages the participation of local people in managing resources. The district is divided into five subdistricts, which are managed by committees of local people appointed by the municipalities. The chairmen of these subdistricts, along with one RM nominee selected by the department of Rural Development, form the PVCD Board.

Boundary Area Subdistrict:
Chairman: Robert Creith
Members: Nick Didkowski
Jake Goertzen
Garry Gardiner

Lizard Lake Subdistrict:
Chairman: Reinold Holenski
Members: Vince Hink
Robert McLean
Bill Sandercock

Pembina Escarpment Subdistrict:
Chairman: Gerard Badiou
Members: George Jackson
Andre Comte
Don Alexander (also district board chairman)

Swan Lake Subdistrict:
Chairman: Doug Collins
Members: Lou Badiou
Bruce Burns
Daniel Hacault

Tiger Hills Subdistrict:
Chairman: Rod Crampton
Members: Harvey Bauhaud
Bill Frisch
Maurice Delichte

Provincial Appointee
Gordon Orchard

District Office:
Thor Thorleifson, Manager
Kathi Furniss, Administrator
261 Main Street, Manitou
Phone 242-3267 Anytime

SEE YOU AT THE OPEN HOUSES IN JANUARY from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. each day.

Altamont Hall: Tuesday the 15th - Pembina Escarpment Subdistrict
Clearwater Hall: Wednesday the 16th - Boundary Area Subdistrict
Snowflake Curling Club: Tuesday the 29th - Boundary Area Subdistrict
Mariapolis Hall: Thursday the 17th - Swan Lake Subdistrict
Pilot Mound Hall: Wednesday the 23rd - Swan Lake Subdistrict
St. Leon Hall: Thursday the 24th - Tiger Hills Subdistrict
St. Alphonse School: Wednesday the 30th - Tiger Hills Subdistrict
Darlingford Hall: Thursday the 31st - Lizard Lake Subdistrict